

C/NIC Chrono

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

23 December 1982

The Honorable Kenneth W. Dam
Deputy Secretary
Department of State

Dear Ken,

I know you and George Shultz have been worrying about the international economic and financial situation and its implications, as have the top officials all over the Government. As you know, a number of staff studies on pieces of this vast problem have been prepared or are under way. Some individual policy issues also have been addressed--for example, an increase in IMF quotas. But I do not see any indication that all the interrelated financial, trade, fiscal, and other economic issues are being looked at in a coherent, integrated fashion and I have the impression that many others view it that way as well.

The designated instrument for providing some needed coherence on foreign economic policy issues presumably is the SIG-IEP. Unfortunately, this high-level group has no full-time staff and it has become evident that officials with a wide variety of major responsibilities in particular departments do not have the time to do the necessary staff work. Whatever its drawbacks, the CIEP did provide good quality staff work from a national perspective. Perhaps a much smaller version of the CIEP staff could be formed to serve the SIG-IEP, either from the White House or from the Treasury itself. I believe the Executive Order creating the SIG-IEP provides for the possible creation of such a staff.

If you believe this idea has merit, I will be happy to do what I can to help in promoting it.

Best wishes,

Henry S. Rowen
Henry S. Rowen
Chairman

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